



# The Swift River Current

#smallschool  
bigheart

978-544-6926

NEW SALEM - WENDELL, MA

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



**Friday, September 24**

6:00pm-8:00pm

Candy Bar Bingo

**Tuesday, September 28**

10:00 am

Special performance for students:

**BMX Presentation**

**Friday, October 1**

8:45am-9:15am

Community Sing

9:15 am

Pinwheels for Peace

BREAKFAST: Granola with

Low-Fat Yogurt & Fruit

LUNCH: Pizza Bites with

Marinara & Roasted Broccoli



...Messages from the Cafeteria

Due to current food shortages, there may be days that we will have to change the menu suddenly, and without notice. Of course, we will try our hardest not to do this; but with uncertain delivery availability, this may occur. We apologize for any inconvenience.

For example, tomorrow's menu (9/23) is changing slightly: we will be serving breaded chicken patties on a WG bun with carrots. We will still offer the BBQ & Ranch sauces on the side. Thank you for understanding!

Also, a reminder: if kids would like a milk, but are not opting for the school meal that day, there would be a fifty-cent charge.

*Swift River School is looking for good people!*

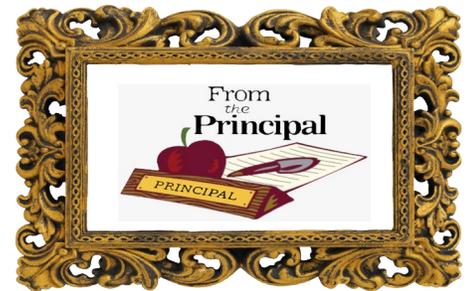
We are looking for substitute teachers, after-school personnel, and paraprofessionals. If you have been looking for a job during school hours, and like working with children, please get in touch with us! Call 978-544-6926.



September 22, 2021

Dear Families,

Summer is starting to slowly fade away and I am happy to welcome fall. We are fifteen days into the new school year, and everyone has mastered our routines, and are doing well following health and safety precautions. Lunch has been quite successful with three separate seating areas outside. We've been very grateful for the tent on those rainy days!



In order to best ensure safety, we have asked students to wear masks while they are playing in the gaga ball pit during recess. Gaga ball is very physical, and while playing, students are close together, and tend to yell and scream. We want to keep this game open to our students since it's a favorite activity for many, and provides an excellent chance for large body movement.

Our art teacher, Karie Neal, recently brought International Peace Day to SRS, and our students and staff have been busy making pinwheels to celebrate together. September 21 was declared by the United Nations as International Peace Day, a day to strengthen the ideals of peace, when all countries are encouraged to engage in 24 hours of non-violence. To honor this day, SRS students and staff will participate in Pinwheels for Peace to create a visual representation of the power of peace on the island at Swift River. We had planned for this to take place this Friday after Community Sing, but with thunderstorms in the forecast, we will postpone until next Friday. And so, after the Community Sing on Friday, October 1, students and staff will walk to the island in the parking lot and will plant their pinwheels. Please join us for Sing and to plant a pinwheel of your own.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Hillside Fundraiser hosted by T.E.A.M. SRS. All of the money raised goes directly back to the classrooms to provide teachers extra funds which they may use towards field trips, or to introduce new projects and materials. Thank you for your support! T.E.A.M. SRS is also generously hosting a BMX presentation on the basketball court on Tuesday, September 28 at 10:00 AM for all students!

The SRS School Council for the 2021 - 2022 school year is looking for new members, and we encourage parents and community members to join. The work of the School Council centers on the development and implementation of the School Improvement Plan, a three-year document that guides the professional work of our school. School Council meetings will be held virtually on five Thursday afternoons (10/14, 11/18, 1/13, 3/10, and 5/12). If you are interested in participating in this important work, please email me at [sullivan@swiftriverschool.org](mailto:sullivan@swiftriverschool.org) by Friday, October 1. We seek to represent diverse perspectives; families with diverse backgrounds are especially encouraged to participate.

Enchanted Forest is open again, and SRS will continue to run the program moving forward. After further consideration, we chose not to move forward with sourcing out the program operations to Healthy Kids. Currently, we are very short-staffed and we are looking for people interested in working with our EF team, for one or more days per week. The hours are from 2:45-5:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 12:45-5:30 on Wednesdays. We ask that families please be aware that there may be days we cannot accommodate drop-ins if we are short-staffed.

We are also in need of paraprofessionals throughout the school. If you know anyone who loves to work with children and is looking for full-time work, please have them contact me.

This Friday, Grade Six will host Candy Bar Bingo to fundraise for a trip to Nature's Classroom! The Swift River Class of 2022 hopes to make this important trip together in April. I hope you can join us outside under the tent at 6:00 PM for a sweet and fun-filled night!

Lastly, the Robo Call system calls from the phone number 978-544-6927. It may pop up on your caller ID as either potential spam, or "Town of New Salem." If possible, please check your messages before you return the call to school.

Have a fantastic week!

Fondly,  
Kelley

## Valerie Chaplin

my name is Valerie Chaplin. I am currently working in the third grade classroom alongside Ms. Smith. I previously worked as a Specialized para in the first and second grade at OES. I reside in Orange, but I am a former resident of New Salem.

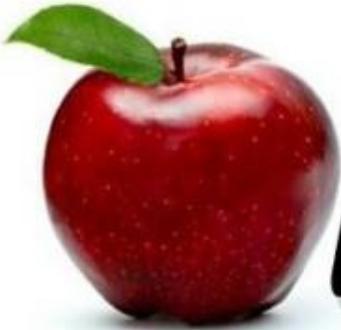
I'm having a wonderful time getting to know the staff and students at Swift River School. It's been fun helping out in and out of the classroom with the kiddos' daily learning, and activities. It's great to see what a close family everyone is at SRS!

When I'm not in school helping out, I stay busy with my family. I am a mother to one third grade girl myself. She keeps me very busy. When not in school she spends most days on the farm with the horses she rides.

I have a large group of dogs whom I've rescued, as well as two cats which keep us on our toes! We love to hike with the dogs in the woods. We camp when we have down time, and we do some boating when the weather allows for it. We are a very outdoorsy family who loves spending time in nature as much as possible. We love life in New England and are getting ready for our favorite season: fall! I hope to get to know each of your kiddos as well as the community at Swift River School this year.



It's going to be a great year,  
Valerie



# MEET OUR STAFF

## Jo-Ann Osborne

I am Jo-Ann Osborne and I am a new paraprofessional in Ms. Marsh's 4th grade class. I am recently retired from Umass, where I worked for almost 40 years. I am so happy to be at Swift River as I was always happiest when I was in school. My favorite hobbies are baking and watching the Red Sox.



Baked with love





We welcome all of our Preschool students and their families to Swift River!

We have two programs, as you know, for preschool: full-day (at a rate of \$25/day), and half-day (at a rate of \$15/day).

Families will be billed on a payment plan of \$400/mo for full-day, and \$240/mo for half-day. Here is how we got that number:

### Half-Day

$$\$15/\text{day} \times 4 \text{ days} = \$60/\text{wk}$$

$$\$60/\text{wk} \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \$2,400/\text{yr}$$

$$\$2,400/\text{yr} \div 10 \text{ months} = \$240/\text{mo}$$

### Full-Day

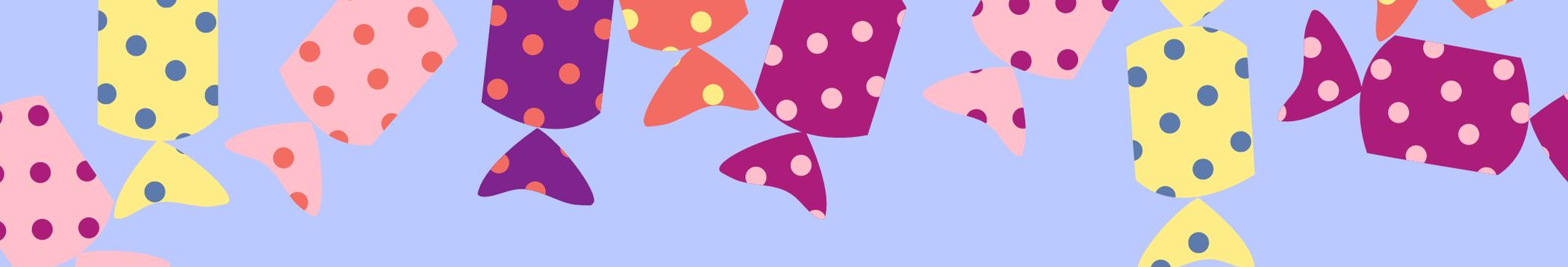
$$\$25/\text{day} \times 4 \text{ days} = \$100/\text{wk}$$

$$\$100/\text{wk} \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \$4,000/\text{yr}$$

$$\$4,000/\text{yr} \div 10 \text{ months} = \$400/\text{mo}$$

This billing cycle will ensure that monthly cost will not fluctuate with the calendar.

If you have any questions or concerns about billing or payments, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Smith at 978-544-6926, or by email at [smithj@swiftriverschool.org](mailto:smithj@swiftriverschool.org).



# Candy Bingo Nights

Eating candy is always fun, but eating bingo candy, what could be better than that? Join us for some fun bingo playing and see who leaves as candy champion. Please arrive with some candy donations so the candy selection is that much more exciting! And when you shout "BINGO!" you'll be able to pick any candy you want, you've earned it!

FIRST CARD IS \$5, ADDITIONAL CARDS ARE \$1

Friday,  
September 24th  
@ 6pm



Friday,  
March, 11th  
@ 6pm

Swift River Elementary School 201 Wendell Road, New Salem, MA 01355

COMMUNITY BULLETIN: These events are not school sponsored

## Kiss your daycare bills goodbye!

- Bring your littles on the bus with you every day
- Work the school calendar with older children
- No night, weekend, or holiday shifts unless you want 'em
- Summers off
- Paid training
- Paid sick time
- Flexible schedules
- Great pay & benefits
- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

VISIT US AT  
TRAVELKUZ.COM



# TRAVELKUZ

## Some Parents May Be Eligible for Reduced Broadband Bills!

Two days ago the FCC announced that again this school year, households that can demonstrate participation in the free and reduced price school lunch program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, are also eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit that reduces monthly bills for broadband service accounts. Households without school-aged children may also apply for the EBB monthly discount.

The announcement can be found here:

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-1119A1.pdf>

More information and the link for the EBB program sign up can be found here: <https://www.whipcityfiber.com/wendell/>

Lou Leelyn, for the WendellNet MLP